

# Happiness in Marriage

*discovering the blessing God intended*

A Seminar By  
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SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

**FAMILY MINISTRIES PUBLISHING**

PO Box 266

Sheridan, California 95681

(530) 633-9923 Order line 800-545-1729

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# Happiness in Marriage: *discovering the blessing God intended*

## SESSION 1 -- Understanding Your Mate:

### GENERAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

MEN	WOMEN
A. LIFE PURPOSE: Gen 2:15	A. LIFE PURPOSE: Gen 2:18
B. RELATIONSHIPS: 1 Cor 11:8	B. RELATIONSHIPS: Gen 3:16
C. ROMANCE: Song of Solomon	C. ROMANCE: Song of Solomon
D. EMOTIONS:	D. EMOTIONS: 1 Tim 2:14; 1 Pet 3:7
E. CONVERSATION:	E. CONVERSATION: 1 Tim 5:13
F. PHYSICAL AFFECTION:	F. PHYSICAL AFFECTION:

## **ASSIGNMENT: Understand Your Mate**

In the following spaces note the innate differences you see between you and your spouse.

A. How is your spouse different from you in the area of PERSONAL VALUE::

B. How is your spouse different from you in the area of RELATIONSHIPS:

C. How is your spouse different from you in the area of ROMANCE:

D. How is your spouse different from you in the area of EMOTIONS:

E. How is your spouse different from you in the area of CONVERSATION:

F. How is your spouse different from you in the area of SEX:

# SESSION 2 -- The Successful Marriage

## I. WHY DO WE STRUGGLE IN OUR MARRIAGES?

We enter marriage with \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ for marriage is wrong

We have \_\_\_\_\_ of love and marriage

## II. WHAT IS A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE?

One which accomplishes \_\_\_\_\_

## III. WHAT ARE GOD'S PURPOSES FOR MARRIAGE?

A. Gen 2:18; Eccl. 4:9-12 -- to enhance the effectiveness of a man's calling by means of a formalized partnership

B. Gen 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:9; Hebrews 13:4 -- to provide a permanent, stable, protected relationship for emotional intimacy, procreation, and the pure expression of sexual desire

C. To accomplish those ends, God . . .

1. Gen 2:24.: supernaturally bonds 2 people into 1

2. Gen 2:23; Song of Sol: makes marriage emotionally fulfilling

## IV. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL MODEL FOR LOVE & MARRIAGE?

Rev 19:7; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:22-32 God's \_\_\_\_\_ with the Church

*Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

*2 Corinthians 11:2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.*

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

## V. WHAT IS TRUE LOVE, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLICAL MODEL?

True love is something you or

*Agape:* It is an to act

A. Love is based on a of the will

Mat 22:37-39 are not required by commandment

*Mat 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

B. 1 John 3:17; Jam 2:14; Lk 10:26-28; Mt 25:32-46 Love is without

*1 John 3:17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

*James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

C. Mat 22:39; Eph 5:29 Love is proven by

*Mat 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

*Eph 5:29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church*

Mal 2:14; Prov 2:17 Love in marriage is formally obligated by the

### **THE MARRIAGE COVENANT: God's means of legalizing romantic relationships**

*Malachi 2:14 ". . . It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant." (also Proverbs 2:17)*

COVENANT: (Hebrew) beriyth, ber-eeth'; in the sense of cutting; a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh; ie: sealed with blood): contract, confederacy, treaty

What is the Marriage Covenant? As defined by historical Hebrew records:

- ◆ It is a formalized official relationship.
- ◆ It is entered into on a contractual basis with repercussions for violations, *ie: death for adultery (Lev 20:10)*
- ◆ It is entered into by taking vows and oaths of commitment, spoken before witnesses, among whom the foremost is God Himself.
- ◆ It is consummated (made official) by a solemn oath of faithfulness which then allows the exercise of rights and privileges, *ie: cohabitation & sex in marriage -- (1 Cor 7:4), etc.*  
*Numbers 30:2 When a man makes a vow to the LORD or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said.*

*Deuteronomy 23:21 If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the LORD your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. 23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.*

- ◆ It is an indissoluble bond between two parties which protects the intimate rights and privileges of their new relationship; it is no more dissoluble than a blood relationship.
- ◆ It is a protective, formal relationship which emphasizes duty and obligation before privileges.

D. Mat 5:44-45; Rom 5:10 True love is

-- not based on

*Mat 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

#### WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SIGNIFY?

- "I'm not in love with you anymore."
- "I've got to get out of this relationship -- I've lost that lovin' feelin'."
- "I'm the only one around here loving anymore . . . and that ticks me off!"
- "Yes, I love you, but you're wearing my love thin."
- "I know I love you . . . I like who I am when I am with you."
- " . . . you meet my needs like no one else."
- " . . . I need you so much."
- " . . . you're a dream come true."
- " . . . I miss you when you are away."
- " . . . I like to be seen with you."
- " . . . I am so jealous of others."
- " . . . I can't keep my hands off of you."

☞ **They are statements rooted in conditional, love**

☞ **The biggest obstacle to TRUE LOVE is**

E. 1 Cor 13:5 Love is and

1. John 15:13 No or >

*John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*

2. Eph 4:2 Love is rooted in

*Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

3. Mat 20:28; John 13:14-15; Gal 5:13b Love

*Mat 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

*John 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

*Gal 5:13 . . . serve one another in love.*

4. 1 Cor 13:7 Love all

*1 Corinthians 13:7 beareth all things...*

5. Eph 5:25 Love is not just

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

6. 1 Cor 13:4 Love

*1 Corinthians 13:4 Love suffers long...*

## VI. WHAT IS GOD'S ULTIMATE PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE?

A. Romans 8:29; Gal 4:19 To \_\_\_\_\_ us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

*Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...*

*Gal 4:19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you,*

B. God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage to

*This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zech 13:9*

*Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. Romans 5:3-5*

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4*

## VII. SUMMARY

A. We enter marriage with the wrong \_\_\_\_\_ Our purpose is

Our purposes may

We may \_\_\_\_\_ get our \_\_\_\_\_ met the way we want

We may never -- be \_\_\_\_\_ the way we want

B. **THE KEY** God's purpose for us is to learn to \_\_\_\_\_ not to be

C. God's greatest interest for us is not \_\_\_\_\_ fulfillment. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ in us.

D. Success is determined . . .

NOT on Am I being \_\_\_\_\_ but on "Am I \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ ?!"

# SESSION 3 -- Resolving Anger and Unforgiveness

*Ephesians 4:26-32 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, {27} and do not give the devil a foothold...{29} Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. {30} And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. {31} Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. {32} Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

## I. WHY DON'T WE WANT ANGER IN OUR HOMES?

A. Eph 4:31; Col 3:8; Jam 1:19

B. Prov 15:18; 29:22; 30:33; Jam 4:1

## II. WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS ANGER?

A. Mk 3:5; 10:14; Mt 21:12 Selfless -- other oriented

*Mark 3:5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.*

*Mark 10:14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

*Matthew 21:12 Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.*

B. Prov 29:8,11; 14:17 Self Controlled

*Proverbs 29:8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger... 11 A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.*

*Proverbs 14:17 A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.*

## III. HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE HAVE AN ANGER PROBLEM?

**Five Elements and Expressions of Anger** (from Eph 4:31):

**BITTERNESS:** *Pikria*; polluted, contaminated, sour, smelly

When anger is left unresolved, it turns to bitterness, *completely* infecting our spirit and outlook on life. It ultimately hardens our heart.

**RAGE:** *Thumos*; wrathful outbursts, impassioned agitated *feelings*, anger in its first-stage

If left unchecked, our initial feeling of inner indignation, will produce an abiding and active anger.

**ANGER:** *Orge*; fierce passion

While *rage* is more indicative of an *inward* impassioned *response*, *anger* suggests an abiding condition of the mind, often with a view to vengeance.

**BRAWLING:** *Krauge*; noisy, like a raven's cry

Those ruled by their rage can be tempted to clamorous arguments and fights.

**SLANDER:** *Blasphemia*; to blaspheme, revile, rail

The natural fruit of bitterness is to verbally attack the object of our anger, either confrontationally or by gossip and slander.



## IV. WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

## V. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO REMAIN UNFORGIVING?

Pikria; polluted, contaminated, sour, smelly

*See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:15*

### Manifestations of unforgiveness:

- Constant irritability, always snaps, easily angered
- Nit-picking, critical, faultfinding
- Rudeness, constant sarcastic cuts and digs
- Over-willingness to tell others of the offense, rallying them to our side
- Dwelling on the offense, reliving the cause of "injury" -- rehearsing it in our mind over and over
- Impatience, intolerance
- Vengeful, wants to hurt back
- Competitive, wants to see them lose
- Rejoicing when the other is humbled
- Intentionally hurtful -- in words and actions
- Degrading and embarrassing them in front of others
- Harping on past failures
- Over-willingness to give "low blows," using past confessions of weakness as ammo against them
- Hateful, demeaning, scornful thoughts
- Silence, communication breakdown, cold-war, cutting off, closing down
- We want them out of our lives

## VI. WHAT IS THE MOST SELF-DECEIVING SYMPTOM OF BITTERNESS?

*Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. 1 Cor 4:5*

1. Only **God** has the authority to
2. Only God has the ability to accurately

### SIGNS OF HEART JUDGMENT:

- Extreme mistrust; total refusal to believe good of them
- Hypercritical of all much of what they do
- As mistrust grows, their motives are frequently assumed to be evil; if something can be taken two ways, the worst is automatically assumed
- Perceive the offender as being *completely* and *thoroughly* evil
- In misunderstandings you respond with *immediate* frustration and judgment of their motives before the facts are fully sought or verified
- Self-deception

## VII. WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO DIFFICULT AND HOW CAN WE OVERCOME IT?

A. We allow \_\_\_\_\_ to control us

SOLUTION:

1. 1 Pet 3:6; 2 Tim 1:7 Don't permit \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*1 Peter 3:6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

*2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

2. 1 John 4:18 Pursue \_\_\_\_\_ for them

*1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

3. Rom 8:31; Heb 12:1-3

*Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. {2} Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. {3} Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

B. We \_\_\_\_\_ our resentment and call our bitterness

SOLUTION: Prov 28:13; Jam 5:16

*Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

*James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

C. We \_\_\_\_\_ for our responses to them, making ourselves

SOLUTION: We must own our

1. 1 Cor 4:13; 1 Pet 3:15 We are responsible for

*1 Corinthians 4:13 when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.*

*1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

2. Mat 5:44 Luke 6:27-28, 35; Rom 12:17-21 We are expected to

*Matthew 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,  
Luke 6:27-28 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, {28} bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.... 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.  
Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. {18} If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. {19} Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. {20} On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." {21} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

3. They are responsible for their \_\_\_\_\_, but not our

D. Unforgiveness makes us feel

SOLUTION: Mat 16:24; Col 3:5; Jam 4:7 \_\_\_\_\_ yourself -- release control to

*Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.  
Colossians 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.  
James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

E. We are filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and

SOLUTION: Jam 4:6 Own your \_\_\_\_\_ -- remember pride's

*James 4:6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

1. 1 Tim 1:15-16 See yourself as GOD does

*1 Timothy 1:15-16 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. {16} But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.*

2. Eph 4:32; Col 3:13 \_\_\_\_\_ as God has \_\_\_\_\_ you

*Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.  
Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

a. Rom 5:10; Gen 6:5; Job 25:4-6 Remember the great \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ you

*Romans 5:10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!  
Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.  
Job 25:4-6 How then can a man be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? {5} If even the moon is not bright and the stars are not pure in his eyes, {6} how much less man, who is but a maggot-- a son of man, who is only a worm!"*

b. John 13:34; Luke 7:47; 19:8 Allow that fresh dose of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ over

*John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."  
Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

3. Rom 12:18; Mat 5:23-24; Prov 6:3 Go to them and

(Do not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ them)

*Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.  
Matthew 5:23-24 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.  
Prov 6:3 then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor!*

F. The pain goes

SOLUTION: Stop trying to find your \_\_\_\_\_ in your mate

a. Prov 29:25; Mat 10:28; Rom 8:31 Find \_\_\_\_\_ in God's

☞ Look for your value in \_\_\_\_\_ not in your

*Proverbs 29:25 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.  
Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.  
Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

b. 1 Cor 13:5; Eph 5:25 Be a \_\_\_\_\_ not a

*1 Corinthians 13:5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

G. We ignore God's

SOLUTION:

Job 1:21-22; Rom 8:28 Trust in God's \_\_\_\_\_ offenders are

*Job 1:21-22 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." {22} In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.  
Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

# SESSIONS 4 & 5 – The Organization of the Family & The Husband's Role in Marriage Eph 5:20-33

## I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT FAMILY ORDER?

A. Like with all of creation, God designed the family to have \_\_\_\_\_ and  
*1 Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of disorder ...*

- Chaos occurs in any organization lacking clearly defined roles

B. God designed the organization of the family with specific roles for its members

1. He designated men as the \_\_\_\_\_ of their homes.

*Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

*1 Cor 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:8-9; Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; 1 Tim 5:8; Exo 6:14; 6:25; Num 1:4; 7:2; 31:26; 32:28; 36:1; Josh 21:1; 22:14; 1 Ki 8:1; 1 Chr 5:15, 24; 7:2, 7, 9, 11, 40; 8:6, 10, 13, 28; 9:9, 13, 33, 34; 15:12; 23:9, 24; 24:4, 6, 31; 26:21, 26, 32; ;27:1; 2 Chr 1:2; 5:2; 19:8; 23:2; Ezra 1:5; 2:68; 3:12; 4:2, 3; 8:1, 29; 10:16; Neh 7:70, 71; 8:13; 11:13; 12:12, 22, 23

2. Wives were created as \_\_\_\_\_ to their husbands

*Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helpmate suitable for him."*

*1 Cor 11:8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*

*Gen 2:15, 18; Eph 5:22, 23-24, 33; Col 3:18; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-6; 1 Cor 11:3-9; 14:34-35; 1 Tim 2:9-15; Prov 31:10-31*

## II. DOES A MAN'S HEADSHIP IMPLY A WOMAN'S INFERIORITY?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ – In Christ we are all

*Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

B. A \_\_\_\_\_ position does \_\_\_\_\_ inferiority in nature or capabilities

*John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.***

*John 13:16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, **nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.***

*Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and **submit to their authority.** They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

### III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT A MAN IS THE HEAD OF HIS WIFE?

Ephesians 5:22-33

A. vs 23 He must assume \_\_\_\_\_ the home and family

*Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.*

➤ The existence of a "head" indicates a need for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ and set \_\_\_\_\_ for your family

2. \_\_\_\_\_ you wife and children

3. Leadership means \_\_\_\_\_

B. vs 25 He must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ himself for her

*Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

➤ The call to sacrifice indicates the extent of \_\_\_\_\_ required to accomplish love, ie: until you are all used up, spent

1. Loving her takes \_\_\_\_\_

2. Loving her may not be \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sacrificing for her communicates \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Inconveniencing yourself says to her \_\_\_\_\_

C. vs 26-27 He is to \_\_\_\_\_

*Eph 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

➤ The call for spiritual nurturing reveals a wife's \_\_\_\_\_

1. Make certain she is in the \_\_\_\_\_

2. Take her to Lord in \_\_\_\_\_

3. Make sure she is in \_\_\_\_\_

D. vs 28-29 He must \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ his wife  
*Eph 5:28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church*

➤ The call to nurture reveals her

1. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ her when she needs
2. She entrusted her \_\_\_\_\_ to you – be careful with it
3. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ her for her \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ her from them.

E. vs 29,33 A wise husband \_\_\_\_\_ his wife  
*Eph 5:29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church ... 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband*

➤ The call to cherish her indicates her inner wish to be

1. \_\_\_\_\_ value to you and the kids
2. Be careful of sending her the message that she is
3. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ yourself when she accuses you of not \_\_\_\_\_ her. Express \_\_\_\_\_ &
4. \_\_\_\_\_ to her when she speaks to you. Try to \_\_\_\_\_ her.
5. Touch her without
6. \_\_\_\_\_ at her.
7. Affirm her about her
8. Ask her about her \_\_\_\_\_ and
9. Learn to speak her
10. \_\_\_\_\_ her.

F. vs 31 He must be a \_\_\_\_\_ in the relationship  
*Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."*

➤ The call to *cleave* reveals her need for

1. He must treat her tenderly -- as the  
*Col 3:19 - not be harsh with his wife*  
*1 Pet 3:7 - be considerate and respectful of his wife as the weaker partner*
2. Never threaten

# HUSBANDS' ASSIGNMENT: A Vision For Leadership

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* Proverbs 29:18

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR FAMILY? *list 4 below:*  
(Typical areas: spiritual, ministry, time mgmt, economic, etc.)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OR WHAT WILL YOU DO TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## SESSION 6 -- The Wife's Role in Marriage: Eph 5:20-33

*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 33 . . . the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:22-24, 33b*

### I. WHAT ARE THE 2 MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES OF A WIFE TOWARD HER HUSBAND?

A. vs. 22

B. vs. 33

### II. WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES?

A. Gen 2:15

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*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

B. Gen 2:18

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*The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

C. 1 Cor 11:7-9

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*A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.*

### III. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF SUBMISSION?

hupotasso, hoop-ot-as'-so; from hupo and tasso; to subordinate oneself in obedience; literally -- to come under for the sake of order.

A.

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B. What does God offer as His model for submission?

1.

*Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.. Ephesians 5:22-24*

2.

*1 Pet 3:1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4 Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

C. Does submission mean . . .

1. Inferiority?

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*Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

*John 14:28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*

*Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

2. Loss of identity?

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3. Groveling silence and slavery?

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4. Obedience to sin?

*Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"*

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IV. WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF RESPECT?

A.

phobeo, fob-eh'-o; from phobos; to be afraid of; as towards one who has power to exercise authority

B. Must respect be earned?

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V. WHAT EFFECT MAY A WOMAN'S ATTITUDE HAVE ON HER HUSBAND?

*Prov 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.*

A. Negative

Positive

B. Negative

Positive

C. Negative

Positive

D. Negative

Positive

VI. WHAT WILL HINDER A WOMAN FROM RESPECTING AND SUBMITTING TO HER HUSBAND?

A. Rom 12:2

B.

C. 1 Pet 3:6

D. Eph 5:22

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VII. WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL OUTWORKINGS OF SUBMISSION AND RESPECT?

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# SESSION 7 -- BASIC STEPS TO CONFLICT SOLVING

*Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

## THE PREMISE:

Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 10:17; 12:12; Gal 3:28; Eph 4:13; 1 Cor 1:10; 2 Cor 13:11; Eph 4:3; Phil 1:27; 4:2; Col 2:2; 1 Pet 3:8 Christians must maintain

Matt 5:23-24 Every \_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ in unified relationships

Unity & peaceful relationships are \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ's followers

THE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE: There is never \_\_\_\_\_ for sinful behavior

☞ WE are \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ to others

### EXAMPLES OF WRONG RESPONSES

Gen 3:11-13 **Adam & Eve**

1 Sam 15 **King Saul**

Gal 3:1-2 **The Galatian Church**

- ▶ No one else makes us angry
- ▶ No one else gives us a headache
- ▶ No one else is responsible for our adultery

### EXAMPLES OF PROPER RESPONSES

Josh 7:20 **Achan**

2 Sam 12:13 **David**

Jonah 3:4-10 **Jonah**

## THE PROCESS:

### I. COME TO A PLACE OF \_\_\_\_\_ BEFORE GOD

A. Prov 13:10; James 3:14-4:8 \_\_\_\_\_ is the cause of most division  
*Prov 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*

B. Eph 4:32; Col 3:13 See yourself as \_\_\_\_\_ before God  
*Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*  
*Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

C. Rom 5:8-10 Forgiveness is not

*Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

D. Mat 18:32-33; Luke 7:47 The fruit of mercy is

*Luke 7:47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."*

*Mat 18:32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'*

II. IDENTIFY TO THE PROBLEM

*Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

III. SIN TO THE OTHER WITHOUT OR

*James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

*Gen 3:12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."*

IV. ASK THEIR

*Luke 18:13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'*

*Psa 51:1 For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

V. WITH THEM AGAINST THE EVIL ONE

*Eph 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

*Mat 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.*

*James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

## SESSION 8 – Dying to Self / Living to Christ -- Galatians 2:20

### I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST?

Rom 6:6 Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ Our \_\_\_\_\_ died on the cross

*Rom 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin -- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.*

➤ Gal 6:14; Rom 6:7 \_\_\_\_\_ lost its power

*Gal 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

➤ 1 John 2:2; Rom 3:25; Heb 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_ Suffered sin's penalty

*1 Jn 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### II. WHAT IS OUR PART IN CRUCIFYING THE FLESH? Mat 10; 38; 16:24-26; Luke 14:26-27

*Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

We are to . . .

*A. Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

*Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

to ourselves

*B. Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,*

*Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

*1 Cor 9:26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

*Eph 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;*

*Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,*

the \_\_\_\_\_ by not obeying it

C. *Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*

*John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.*

Preoccupy ourselves with God's                      not

D. *Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*

Release to God all

E. *Phil 3:7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,*

Regard earthly success as

F. *Rom 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

*Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Live as

### III. WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST LIVING IN US?

*Col 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

He is our    of salvation